
If you believe you are eligible to vote and encounter difficulty registering, please contact the Elections Division of the Connecticut Secretary of State:

Connecticut Secretary of State
Elections Division
30 Trinity Street
PO Box 150470
Hartford, CT 06115-0470
(800) 540-3764 (toll-free)
(860) 509-6100
www.sos.state.ct.us/ElectionsDivision/electionindex.html

If the Connecticut Secretary of State is unable to help you, or to report a problem, contact:

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Voting Section, Rm. 7254 - NWB
Washington, D.C. 20530
(202) 307-2767 (voice)
(800) 253-3931 (toll-free)
(202) 307-3961 (fax)
www.usdoj.gov/crt

This pamphlet is provided for informational purposes only, as an aid to further inquiry. The laws in many states are revised frequently, and may have changed since this pamphlet was issued. It is your responsibility to determine whether you are lawfully eligible to vote, and criminal penalties can result from voting when ineligible or making false statements on a registration form.

Issued December, 2000

U.S. Department of Justice

Civil Rights Division



Restoring Your Right to Vote

CONNECTICUT



The right to vote is an important civil right in a democracy as well as a civic responsibility, and yet many persons who have been convicted of a crime do not know whether they are eligible to vote. For both federal and state elections, the right to vote is controlled by the law of the state in which you live. Some states restrict the right to vote for persons who have been convicted of a crime. This pamphlet is intended to help you determine whether you are eligible to vote in the state in which you live, and if so, what steps you must take to be permitted to vote.

What law governs whether my felony conviction limits my right to vote?

The impact of a criminal conviction on the right to vote varies widely from state to state. Whether you can vote after being convicted of a crime is determined by the state in which you live, not the state in which you were convicted.

Can I vote while I'm incarcerated in Connecticut?

If you are a resident of Connecticut, you may not vote if you have been convicted of a felony. If you are a resident of another state who is temporarily incarcerated in Connecticut, you may be able to vote by absentee ballot in your home state. You need to consult the law of your home state regarding both criminal convictions and absentee ballots to see if this is a possibility.

I have been released from incarceration. How do I restore my right to vote?

You may regain the right to vote upon submission of written or other satisfactory proof that all fines in conjunction with your conviction have been paid and that you have been discharged

from confinement, parole or probation. You must submit this information to the office of the Registrar of Voters in your town.

What if my conviction was for a federal crime?

If you are a resident of Connecticut, the same rules apply whether you were convicted of a federal or state crime.

What if I was convicted in another state?

The same rules apply for Connecticut voters even if the conviction occurred in another state.

What happens if I move to another state?

If you move to another state, your right to vote will be controlled by the laws of that state.

What are Connecticut's other voter registration requirements?

To register to vote in Connecticut, you must be a United States citizen and a resident of a Connecticut town, and you must be at least 17 years old. You can vote when you turn 18. You also must not currently be declared mentally incompetent to vote by a court of law.

When do I need to register to vote?

To vote in a primary, if you do not register in person, your application must be postmarked or received by the 5th day before a primary. Or, you may register in person by noon on the last business day before the primary. To be eligible to vote in an upcoming general election, your application must be postmarked or received by the 14th day before the election.

Where do I go to register?

Registration is available at many places in Connecticut, including:

- your local Registrar of Voters office
- Social Services Administration offices
- Motor Vehicle Administration offices

Registration may also be available at other state service agencies. Contact your local Registrar of Voters office or the Elections Division of the Office of Secretary of the State to find out which service agencies provide voter registration.